



## Police Aim to Save Lives with 'Booze It & Lose It'



The Governor's Highway Safety Program reminds drivers not to drink and drive.

Due to the increase in drunken-driving related fatalities around the holidays each year, state and local law enforcement agencies across North Carolina were out in full force for the holiday Booze It & Lose It campaign. The statewide campaign lasted from Dec. 11, 2015 through Jan. 3.

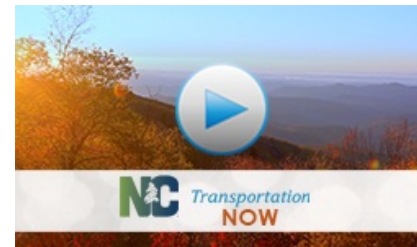
Their efforts resulted in 3,074 DWI charges in which 252 were drug-related charges and 2,822 were alcohol related.

Nearly 350 law enforcement agencies participated in the campaign, issuing 105,020 traffic and criminal citations in addition to the 2,822 DWI charges at 10,914 checking stations and saturation patrols across the state.

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### NC Transportation Now



On the latest N.C. Transportation Now: Looking back at the highlights of 2015 at NCDOT.

To learn more about this story, visit NCDOT's [YouTube Channel](#).

### Safety Improvements Implemented at Union County Intersection



The N.C. Department of

The top five counties for DWI arrests during the campaign were as follows:

- Wake County - 260;
- Guilford County - 208;
- Mecklenburg County - 168;
- Cumberland County - 136; and
- Forsyth County - 125.

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## NCDOT Employees Help Rescue Child Riding Bike Along Interstate



NCDOT employees (from left to right) Andrew Hash, Alexis McIntosh, Ron Pharr, Dwight Cunningham and Scott Jackson helped rescue a young boy who was riding his bike along the

interstate

A local child is safe because N.C. Department of Transportation employees acted quickly when they spotted the boy pedaling his bicycle along a busy Charlotte interstate.

Last month, a State Farm Safety Patrol driver, Scott Jackson, noticed a young boy riding his bike along I-77 South at Exit 16 to the ramp down to I-85 North (Exit 13). The boy had run away from home. The safety patrol driver was traveling in the opposite direction as the boy, so he immediately called into the Metrolina Traffic Management Center (TMC) for assistance.

Transportation recently installed a multi-way stop at Billy Howey Road and New Town Road in Union County, and the changes are designed to make the intersection safer.

Last month, crews installed stop signs requiring all traffic to stop at the intersection before proceeding. These types of improvements are relatively low cost and can be quickly implemented. At a multi-way stop, drivers take turns entering the intersection, resulting in fewer and less severe crashes.

NCDOT studied the intersection and determined that safety could be improved with the installation of stop signs on New Town Road.

NCDOT installed permanent "Stop Ahead" signs on New Town Road to alert motorists that they should be prepared to stop, as well as "Stop" and "Stop Ahead" pavement parkings. The existing overhead signals will remain, with all indications changed to red. For more information, including traffic rules for navigating a multiway stop, click [here](#).

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## Traffic Shifted Onto New Segment of George Liles Parkway in Cabarrus County

As construction progresses on the George Liles Parkway Extension in Concord, traffic has been moved onto the new, eastern half of the project from U.S. 29 to Roberta Road.

The TMC control room used its interstate camera system to spot the boy and quickly dispatched another driver to his location.

That driver, Ron Pharr, hurried to the boy's location and witnessed a tractor trailer narrowly miss the child and his bike. Pharr jumped out of his vehicle and was able to stop the boy from traveling any further down the busy interstate.

A motorist saw Pharr and the boy on the side of the road and also stopped to help. The motorist helped Pharr contact the TMC control room, who called for help from police, fire and medic.

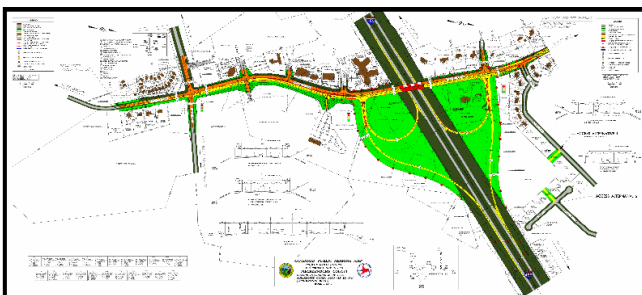
"I am very proud to be associated with the IMAP State Farm Safety Service Patrol," said Tim Kirk, NCDOT's regional ITS engineer. "These guys put their lives on the line every day, and they continue to do it because they care for the citizens of this State. There is a sense of pride that is shared between them and other responders knowing that this child and others will be able to celebrate Christmas together."

Emergency responders helped return the boy to his caregivers.

The Metrolina TMC is a \$14 million integrated system based in Charlotte. It boasts a 12,000 square foot facility that houses the control equipment, NCDOT, State Farm Safety Patrol (IMAP) and NC State Highway Patrol personnel. It also hosts staging areas for response and mobilization in the event of major emergencies.

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## Construction Schedules Expedited for Some Charlotte-Area Projects



The construction schedule for the Weddington Road interchange with I-485 has been expedited three years.

Crews have constructed the right side of the proposed highway at this location and have shifted traffic onto this new section so construction can begin on the left side of the highway, which is existing Roberta Church Road.

The intersection of U.S. 29 and George Liles Parkway is now open and all ramps are fully functional. The existing intersection of U.S. 29 and Roberta Church Road is closed permanently. The bridge over U.S. 29 will be opened at a later date.

Detour and directional signs will be in place throughout the project to help motorists navigate the new traffic pattern.

The extension of George Liles Parkway is a \$37.4 million project that began in September 2013 and is estimated to be completed by February 2018.

In addition to constructing a four-lane divided roadway between Weddington Road and Roberta Road, the project includes a single point urban interchange with U.S. 29, a design used to move large volumes of traffic in urban areas.

A segment of the project between Weddington Road and U.S. 29 opened to traffic in mid September.

For more about current construction operations, click [here](#).

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**NCDMV Encourages  
Customers to Plan Ahead As  
Fee Increases Become  
Effective with New Year**

At its January meeting in Raleigh, the N.C. Board of Transportation approved new transportation projects, as well as accelerated schedules for already-planned projects, as part of the [2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#), which is the N.C. Department of Transportation's 10-year construction plan.

These changes, called amendments, were made possible thanks to Governor Pat McCrory's 2015 budget.

"The reforms I signed into law will get these roads built sooner," Governor McCrory said. "The primary purpose of the reforms was to ensure transportation funds were being spent on transportation projects and not diverted to other state programs."

For NCDOT's Division 10, which includes Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties, [eight projects were expedited](#), so that they can be delivered to the public sooner than originally expected.

Construction of the new Weddington Road interchange with I-485 was accelerated from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2016. Additional Charlotte-area projects with schedules expedited by the recently signed state budget include:

- Upgrading the existing interchange at I-77 and Gilead Road in Mecklenburg County: Right-of-way accelerated from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2017 and construction accelerated from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2018;
- Widening of West Catawba Avenue from N.C. 73/Sam Furr Road to east of Torrence Chapel Road in Mecklenburg County: Construction of Segment B accelerated from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2020;
- Widening of N.C. 73 from N.C. 16 Business in Lincoln County to West Catawba Avenue in Mecklenburg County: Construction of Segment A accelerated from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2023;
- Widening of John Street-Old Monroe Road from Trade Street to Wesley Chapel-Stouts Road: Construction of Segment B accelerated from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2022 and right-of-way acquisition for Segment C accelerated from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2020;
- Reconfiguring to a superstreet design the intersection of U.S. 74/Roosevelt Boulevard and



The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles is encouraging customers to plan ahead for increased fees for many driver and vehicle services that will become effective with the new year.

The new fees were drafted and passed by the N. C. General Assembly in budget appropriations legislation, House Bill 97. They reflect the first DMV fee increases in 11 years. The legislation applies to vehicle titles and registrations as well as driver license issuances and renewals on or after Jan. 1, 2016.

After that date, interest charged on late registration fees will also be calculated on the new fee amount.

For example, standard Class C driver licenses will increase by \$1 for each year issued, making an 8-year license \$40 and a five-year license card \$25; standard ID cards will be \$13. Vehicle registration will increase by \$8, making the annual registration fee for a standard private passenger vehicle \$36.

Other changes include the elimination of the 10-Day Trip Permit. Instead, vehicles that require temporary registration for transfers, sales, travel or inspections will be issued a 10-Day Temporary Registration Permit. Beginning Jan. 1, the temporary permit will cost \$10 and must be notarized.

For more information, including a fee schedule detailing the new fees,



Rocky River Road in Union County: Right-of-way acquisition accelerated from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2017 and construction accelerated from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2018;

- Widening of U.S. 21/Statesville Road from Northcross Center Court to Westmoreland Road in Mecklenburg County: Right-of-way acquisition accelerated from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2020 and construction accelerated from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2020; and
- Widening of U.S. 21 from Gilead Road to Holly Point Drive in Mecklenburg County: Right-of-way acquisition accelerated from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2020 and construction accelerated from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2020.

"These projects are designed to enhance mobility in the greater Charlotte area, and amendments to the state's 10-year transportation plan will help us deliver them to the public sooner than anticipated," said Tracy F. Dodson, Board of Transportation member representing Division 10. The complete expanded and accelerated list of highway and non-highway projects can be found on NCDOT's [website](#).

The state budget included additional funding for transportation through the elimination of the transfer from the Highway Fund to the General Fund and through other fee and rate changes resulting in an additional \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years for transportation construction.

The department followed the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law to identify new projects (either segments or entire projects) at the statewide, regional and division levels. The projects were identified from those previously scored based on the same weights and criteria (data) used to develop the [2016-2025 STIP](#).

click [here](#).



## NCDOT News

Want to learn more about what's going on at the N.C. Department of Transportation? Visit the Department's [website](#) or head to NCDOT's [Newsroom](#) for the latest updates.

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